ANNUAL

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NAGA HILLS POLITICAL AGENCY

FOR

1876-77.

CALCUTTA:
PRINTED AT THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT PRESS.
1877.

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1876-77.

No. 1831, dated Shillong, 14th July 1877.

From—T. J. MURRAY, Esq., C.S., Offg. Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam,

To—T. H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., C.S.I., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I AM directed to forward, for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, a copy of the Annual Report on the Administration of the Naga Hills for 1876-77, together with the remarks of the Chief Commissioner thereon.

Dated Shillong, 14th June 1877.

RESOLUTION on the Annual Administration Report of the Naga Hills District for the year 1876-77.

THE present Report is exceedingly full and interesting, and Mr. Carnegy has evidently been at much pains during the period of his incumbency to make himself intimately acquainted with the Naga Hills country and its inhabitants. The Report is especially valuable as affording a clear and reliable representation of the political situation in these hills,—depicting vividly the respective relations of the various tribes to each other and to the district authorities, and the sentiments entertained by them generally towards the British power.

2. Mr. Carnegy is evidently fully convinced that it needs but the unmistakable exhibition of a firm and vigorous policy in prohibiting raids and head-taking in general, and in reducing to a submissive attitude the two most arrogant of the villages, in order to inaugurate an era of peaceful industry among these hills, and to ensure a ready acceptance of our authority throughout these hitherto lawless tracts.

3. In these views the Chief Commissioner fully concurs, and he trusts that the measures which have recently been sanctioned for dealing with these tribes will bear the fruit which is anticipated from them, and that at no very distant date the Naga Hills District may attain the same degree of advancement from turbulence and barbarism towards civilization and good government which has already been reached by its prototype in the Garo Hills. Colonel Keatinge can see no causes at work amongst the Nagas which should make it as difficult to reduce them to order as it has been to subdue the Bheels, the Minas, and the Mairs of Central India and Rajpootana. We came amongst these tribes when they had been for generations constantly ill-treated and betrayed by the corrupt officials of the surrounding Native States, and they had received a deep-rooted suspicion of every overture made by people from the plains. It took years of patient labour to overcome this difficulty. With the Nagas our position is different. They have hitherto maintained their position as independent savages. It is only within the last four years that we have ventured to move through their hills. Differences, when they have arisen, have been settled on the spot by force of arms, leaving no ill-will behind. They have seen that we are as merciful as we are strong, and there appears no reason that the same political measures which have reclaimed the above-mentioned tribes should not civilize the Nagas, who in many respects are a superior race to any of the hillmen of peninsular India. The details which Mr. Carnegy has furnished of each of his various tours in the interior are interesting, as showing what opportunities he had of forming an opinion concerning the people among whom he travelled. The steady increase of the area under cultivation which Mr. Carnegy notices in the villages which have voluntarily come under our protection, is a most encouraging fact, and no doubt has a strong effect in inducing others to follow their example.

4. Samaguting was, as usual, unhealthy during the year. The spread of the threatened outbreak of small-pox seems to have been obviated to a great degree by the prompt and judicious measures of the authorities. The conduct of the Native Doctor in the matter of the treatment of the one person who was attacked by the disease will be brought to the notice of the Deputy Surgeon-General.

5. The disinclination of the men, both of the Beldar corps and of the Police, to continue in service in the hills is much to be regretted, and the consequent difficulty of obtaining recruits is of considerable importance. The Inspector-General of Police will no doubt suggest steps for overcoming the difficulties which have arisen. With the removal of the head-quarters to Wokha, it will perhaps be found that the men will be more willing to stay.

6. Trade of a certain kind appears fairly active in these hills, and, when tranquillity is thoroughly established, will no doubt considerably expand. The natural trade route between Assam and Burmah lies across the Naga Hills.

7. Colonel Keatinge has already, in another Resolution, commented upon the administration of Police and crime in these hills.

8. The energy with which the road-making operations were pushed on is very creditable to all concerned. The Chief Commissioner trusts that no hindrance will occur to the still further extension and completion of these communications, without which neither the pacification nor the management of these tracts can be adequately carried out. The readiness with which the Nagas of the eastern parts flocked to take employment on the road is a very gratifying sign of their inclination for settled pursuits.

9. The Chief Commissioner is glad to hear of the success of the school at head-quarters. He has no doubt but that the Rev. Mr. Clarke will be ready to render any assistance in his power towards promoting education at Wokha when the head-quarters are removed to that place.

10. The dispensary is evidently growing in popularity. It is an especially useful agent of civilization among the Nagas. Dr. Cooper deserves much credit for the success of this institution.

No. L-59, dated Samaguting, 1st May 1877.

From—P. T. CARNEGY, Esq., Political Officer in charge, Naga Hills,

To—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commr. of Assam.

THE following General Annual Administration Report for the Naga Hills Political charge for the year 1876-77 is submitted for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

2. During the year the Political charge of the hills has been in my hands, Mr. J. Needham was Assistant Political Officer, and Mr. A. D. Cooper Civil Medical Officer, with powers as Assistant Political Officer. The former gentleman took three months' privilege leave from 1st June 1876 to 30th September,* and the latter also three months' privilege leave from 6th November to 6th February, in neither case was any officer brought in to fill up the temporary vacancy, so that the administrative staff has continued unchanged.

* *Sic* in orig.

3. *Annual Tour.*—Shortly after assuming charge of the hills I went out into camp for a few days to see the political path towards Wokha as far as it was then cut, and soon after went down to Golaghat to pass the work done on the road and to arrange about a supply of rice then much wanted at Samaguting. After returning from Golaghat my head-quarters were at Samaguting until the end of the rainy season, when I again went down to Golaghat to see what

repairs were wanted on the road, and to make arrangements for procuring carpenters and others for the work during the cold season. As the Chief Commissioner is aware, it was expected that a small military force would be sent into the hills after the rains were over, this expectation prevented any plans being laid down for the regular cold weather tour until final orders were received. On the 14th November 1876 I was informed that there would be no expedition, and then determined to go out as soon as carriage could be got in for the Police force I wished to take with me. There was some delay in procuring the carriers required, but on the 2nd December I left Samaguting with a guard of 50 men, intending first to try and effect the arrest of a Naga of Merama who had assisted in murdering a constable in January 1876, and to inflict some punishment on the village of Kohima for harbouring him, before doing anything else. On the 5th I reached Kohima, and was there until the 12th, making endeavours to arrest the man we wanted, without success; the village in which he lived had been entirely deserted, and all the property removed from it, and we could not succeed in getting more than two or three of the people to come in. It was soon apparent that if the man was to be caught it must be done through Naga agency, and as much as possible was done to set that at work. As the carriage wanted had not come out, and there was no object to be obtained just then by staying on at Kohima, taking a guard of 25 men and Naga coolies from village to village, I went south to the Manipur frontier, passing through the Angami villages of Phesama, Kigwema, Jakama, Viswema, &c., up to the Mao group of villages within the Manipuri boundary. One object in taking this route was to ascertain if a path could be taken that way towards Manipur, this it was apparent could be done with comparatively little trouble, there being a very good line along the eastern slope of the group of mountains, of which Jappa is the highest peak, at an elevation of from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, and passing near the villages named above, from which plenty of labour would be procurable. Ponies from Manipur are brought by this route now without any difficulty. These villages are all in fine open country, and the large amount of carefully terraced rice land must strike any one; these terraces have been made at much trouble, and on enquiry I found the people to be very careful cultivators. Everything was very quiet, and the inhabitants apparently well-disposed in every way. Laying down a settled boundary line with Manipur has been a great boon in this part of the country where, before the line was fixed, the Manipuries were in the habit of making frequent visits, where they lived at free quarters, if nothing worse. This change has evidently been appreciated by the people who, like the Manipuries, have abstained from any aggression since the boundary was fixed. From Mao I went along the boundary line for some distance, and saw that the marks set up remained undisturbed, then passing through Kidima returned to Kohima on the 16th. The carriage required reached Kohima also on the evening of the 16th, and the next day I assembled the headmen of the different clans, of which there are seven in the village, and after hearing all they had to say, decided that there was nothing in the behaviour of four of the clans for which they deserved punishment. The clan which had sheltered

the murderer when the Police went out for him, I fined two hundred and fifty rupees, and the other two clans fifty rupees each, giving 24 hours for payment. On the morning of the 18th the clans fined fifty rupees each brought in their money, and to one of them Rupees 20 was returned, their numbers being small. There was some difficulty in getting in the rest of the fine, but by evening it was paid through the exertions of the well-disposed people of the village, and early next morning we left the place.

4. At Kohima information reached me that a grant of money had become available for carrying on the bridle-path from Golaghat to Wokha, and thence across the hills to Samaguting; and also of the Chief Commissioner's wish that it should be finished during the current season if possible. Such being the case, it was determined to make for Golaghat with as little delay as might be; accordingly the first march from Kohima was across the hills to Nerhema, a village lying on the part of the path already finished. Nerhema in April last was a fine village, but now half of it has been burnt down and plundered by a combined force from Konoma, Jotsoma, Mozema, and other villages, the Nerhema people were however to blame for aggression. Owing to the disturbed state of affairs the path had fallen into disuse, and it was not very easy following it up to the point where work ceased last year, about eight miles from Nerhema. Passing under the village of Chichama, which was only really brought into contact with our people last year, I was very pleased to see that when the path crossed the cultivation, scrupulous care had been taken to keep it open to the full width, and no encroachments made such as the Nagas farther east are fond of making if not well looked after. Having halted a day to look after the path and see what was necessary in the way of repairs, we pushed on to Wokha, which place was reached on the 24th. After the first march from Nerhema the route lay past villages which were fighting with each other, consequently the paths had become almost overgrown by jungle, or, where still a little clear, well panjeed, so that it was no easy matter to get along. The party met however with no opposition. At Tesephima, the village partially destroyed by Captain Butler in 1873-74, and which in March 1876 refused to supply rice to Mr. Needham, the people on seeing us approach took up the panjees from the entrance to the village and gave such supplies as were required; their behaviour was civil, if not exactly cordial. At Nongsechong, which bore the reputation of being anything but friendly, the path had been stopped by having branches thrown across it, fresh panjees also had been put down, but on our pushing straight into the village no opposition whatever was made, and the people became civil enough. Coming along we examined the country for a line for the path, and selected what seemed an easy one nearly all the way; subsequent experience has proved this selection to be correct. At Wokha we found the stockade and huts built during the expeditions of 1873-74 and 1875-76 carefully preserved, and the Nagas apparently well-disposed; supplies came in freely, and there was no hitch of any kind. The people who left the village after its destruction in 1874 are returning, though the village is still not nearly so large as it was before that event. At the time of my visit some of the Wokha men

had gone off to Golaghat to trade, a thing they never used to do before the country was opened up.

5. The 25th of December was spent at Wokha, and the ground selected by Captain Butler for a new station visited. The place is open and generally well-suited for the purpose, and when Captain Butler saw it, the water supply was most abundant; on the present occasion, however, though seven out of eight small water courses running down the slope of Thebzethu were dry, and it was a question whether water from the stream still flowing could be taken to the proposed station that I determined to settle at a future visit, but circumstances prevented me from making one. Should this site not be suitable, there is ground available nearer the village. In every respect the vicinity of Wokha is the best site for the head-quarters station. I have seen that materials for building are abundant, there is an endless supply of thatching grass and bamboos, while timber and stone can be brought down hill from Thebzethu, an advantage to be appreciated after a residence at Samaguting, where nearly everything wanted has to be dragged up hill some 2,000 feet. Near Wokha village I found no less than five fine springs, another thing to be appreciated after a residence at Samaguting.

6. From Wokha we marched on the 26th to Yekum, where we were civilly received; next day passed through Sanigaon, the people of which village are constantly going to and coming from the plains. The path from Golaghat was cut last year to within about five miles of Sanigaon, but we did not strike it until the 28th, not far from Bhandari. It had been quite unused by Nagas up to Bhandari, consequently overgrown by jungle, but from that village had been kept well under traffic until a short distance from the plains where a landslip had occurred, and the Nagas, too lazy to cut a fresh path for a little distance, had struck off straight down hill to the bed of a stream, and then followed up that until they struck the path in the forest under the hills; from this point the path was followed to Golaghat. We had to follow their example, and so got delayed, and did not reach Golaghat until the 29th. On my arrival there I expected to meet Kusnood Ali, overseer, Public Works Department, who had been deputed from Shillong to take charge of the road work up to Wokha; as he had not arrived, and there was no one at Golaghat to take the thing in hand, I determined to ride up to Sibsagar to see Colonel Campbell and arrange with him for a supply of local labour to carry on the work, it being then too late in the season to make arrangements for importing any workmen. Colonel Campbell was kind enough to promise me all the assistance required, and to give orders then and there to the Mouzadars and Kotokis from the Golaghat Subdivision, who were then present in Sibsagar on account of the Imperial Proclamation. Having spent one day at Sibsagar, I returned to Golaghat. Kusnood overseer had not arrived, but after making preparations to let him start work immediately on his arrival, I marched back to Samaguting, instructions having in the meantime been issued for the working party between Samaguting and Wokha to go out and commence operations at once. On the 10th January I reached Samaguting, intending to go out and see the road work towards Wokha started, then to return to the south, and after visiting Konoma and Mozema to go along the southern face of the Burail into

the Kutcha Naga country, and thence through the Kookie villages down to the Nowgong boundary. Wet weather kept me from marching on the 13th or 14th, and on the evening of the latter day the Native Doctor in medical charge during Mr. Cooper's absence on leave came up to inform me that one of the Kookie scouts had just been brought to hospital suffering from small-pox and with the eruption out all over his body. This alarming news upset all plans; there was a panic in Samaguting which ended in all the inhabitants of the Naga village taking to flight, leaving most of their property to take care of itself. After, in conjunction with Mr. Needham, taking such measures as we thought likely to stop the spread of the disease, I went out to camp on the 17th. The panic soon spread round, and no one would come near Samaguting. The different tribes inhabiting the hills being all greatly afraid of small-pox, there was no direction in which I could go to visit the villages without their being at once emptied on my approach, besides the risk of really taking disease amongst them. Such being the case, I went to the Zubza river away from any village, and stopped there to dispose of the case of one of the men who killed the constables near this place. After concluding the trial, I marched along the political path and joined the working party at Nerhema. Widely exaggerated rumours had preceded me, and at first scarcely any one would come near the camp. After a day or two however men gradually came in for work, and very soon we had as many labourers as we could find tools for. The time spent with the working party was well employed in taking the road, the Nidzakru hill, the most difficult part of the line to Wokha. Here we came across small-pox again, the disease being bad in Thema Katzama and Themokadima, two villages lying on the line our path would take. Hearing that the panic about Samaguting had greatly subsided, I determined to return and go out to the Kutcha Naga and Kookie country; an attempt to march across the hills had to be abandoned on account of small-pox being bad at Karhuma, one of the villages *en route*, consequently we returned by the regular path, arriving on the 7th February. On the 9th February I left Samaguting and had got as far as Lakema, when receiving information of the arrest of the second murderer of our constable, on the 13th I returned to Samaguting with two constables, and was there detained until the 18th, on which day I rejoined the camp at Lemhema, thence marched to Berrima, and on to Intu at the south-eastern corner of the district; from Intu we turned back to the north-west, and after passing through some more Kutcha Naga villages, visited the Kookie colonies at Kachama, Silim, and Songbo, marching from the latter place back to Samaguting *viâ* Tesephima, and getting in on the 1st March. During this trip most of the Kutcha Naga villages were visited; at first there was some difficulty in communicating with them, as men from Mozema were going about spreading reports that half the inhabitants of Samaguting had died from small-pox, &c., &c. The Dobashias with the camp, however, managed to convince the people that there was no danger, and afterwards there was no trouble. This is the finest part of the hills in my opinion; there are forests of pine and oak, and the soil seems nearly everywhere good; the people have very fine jhums and raise much more rice than they can consume. Unfortunately, all I could learn and observe tended to show that the population is decreasing. Quarrels

leading to bloodshed amongst themselves and raiding by Angamis help to account for this; also it seems that a number of women are taken away by the Angamis. The Kutcha Naga women have a reputation as good workers and housewives, consequently are sought after in the Angami country. Several times the scarcity of wives was a complaint made to me. Everywhere we came across men from Mozema or Konoma wandering about two or three together; they always asserted they were trading, but in reality were roving about, living at free quarters, and bullying the people.

7. The Kookie villages were in a very satisfactory state, evidently prosperous. Near Silim I found two newly-settled villages and heard of others recently come from Manipur; there seems a steady movement to the north-west on the part of the Kookies. It is quite a relief to see their open villages and the fearless way they live after coming from the Kutcha Naga villages, where the people are skulking behind barricades and almost afraid to call their souls their own. The revenue-paying villages are better than the others in this respect, but have still a great dread of Mozema and Konoma, which it will require time to dispel. The Kookies were in particular good humour, because not called upon to furnish any carriage this season. Every Kookie village too has an acknowledged head, which makes dealing with them easy.

8. On the 3rd March I left Samaguting to visit the country towards Nowgong, then to cross the Rengma Hills to Golaghat, and return by the new road through Wokha, going through Dimapur, and then westward to Mohongdijua, thence down the banks of the Jamuna to the Nowgong boundary, one march from Doboka a road used to be kept up in this direction, which is the shortest and best land route to Lower Assam; for three years, however, nothing has been done to it, and in some places it has fallen into disuse. It might be advisable, when funds are available, to reopen this line. From the Jamuna I went south to the point where the Nowgong, Cachar, and Naga Hills districts meet on the Doyung river, and there settled some confusion which had arisen about the boundary. My intention to get across the hills through Rongbang Mouza could not be carried out, as, owing to recent migrations of the Mikirs, the paths leading across had fallen into disuse, and it would have taken days to re-cut them. I therefore marched back to Jamuna through the Nowgong District, and from Bhokulaghaut on that stream struck into the Rengma Hills, making three marches and reaching Phembikas Rengma Naga village on the 19th; at that place intelligence was received of the attack by a party of Angamies supposed to be from Mozema on the village of Gomaigojoo in North Cachar. Hearing this made me hurry back to Samaguting, which was reached on the evening of the 23rd March. On arriving at Samaguting I learnt that the raid on Gomaigojoo had been committed by a small party from the Piphuchuma clan of Mozema, and that two guns stolen there had been given up. From the information brought in there seemed good reason to hope for the surrender of the raiders. On the 30th I went to Mozema with a strong party of Police, but failed to procure the surrender of the men who had formed the raiding party, and being for reasons to be explained afterwards not anxious to bring on open hostilities, then I returned to

Samaguting on the 4th April. The weather was then very stormy and inclement, and not wishing to expose the Police and others to hardship without some strong reason, I did not again go out to camp.

9. When in the Mohongdijua, Ronghang, Duardissa, and Eastern Rengma Mouzas a number of villages were visited. The Mikirs, who form the most numerous part of the population in the country gone over, can scarcely be said to have any villages, though they live in small detached hamlets each consisting of members of one family. They are very quiet, inoffensive people, and tolerably industrious, though sadly falling off in this respect from the use of opium; this habit is a comparatively recently acquired one, but has taken great hold on them, and they give it to their children. There is no doubt these people were a good deal oppressed by their mouzadars and others, who took advantage of their ignorance and timidity to extort money, but one or two cases having come to light and proper punishment awarded to the offenders, I believe this has been put a stop to. There is also a good deal of confusion about the boundary between Nowgong and the Naga Hills—villages in one district have been paying revenue in the other and sometimes have been come down upon by the mouzadars of both. The Chief Commissioner has however since sanctioned the deputation of a European officer next cold season to thoroughly settle this question. In former days there must have been a comparatively large population in the valley of the Jamuna, traces of abandoned cultivation are frequent. Even 25 years ago the population about Mohongdijua was much larger than it is now, but the people moved away towards Nowgong for fear of the Angamis. I was very glad to see that people were coming back and breaking up new land for permanent cultivation. I was much struck too by the numbers and quality of the cattle in this part of the country, which has escaped the disease which devastated most other parts of Assam.

10. The Gomaigojoo raid took me back just as I was getting amongst the Rengma Nagas, therefore I saw but little of them, that was however satisfactory as they were well off and contented. One thing always in their favor is the fertility of the soil in their hills which is indeed very great.

11. The greater part of the country gone over this season had not been visited by any European officer for several years, Captain Butler having latterly been away each cold season with the expedition to the eastern hills.

12. Owing to Dr. Cooper's absence on leave during November, December, and January and the necessity of having one European officer always at Samaguting, Mr. Needham was not out in the interior so much as usual this year, but he made frequent visits to the work going on on the Golaghat road, and, after Dr. Cooper's return, was away from the 9th February until the 18th March principally employed with the road between Golaghat and Wokha, where he did much good in pushing on work and inducing Nagas to take employment in jungle-clearing and everything else required short of earth-cutting. Afterwards Mr. Needham went out to the working party between Samaguting and Wokha, and brought them in at the beginning of April.

13. *Weather and Crops.*—For some time after the beginning of the financial year the weather was very dry, and, except in the higher hills, hot. There was a great deficiency in the usual spring rains, the hill streams were lower than they had been for years, so much so that until the beginning of June it was impossible to get boats up the Dhansiri to Dimapur. In April the rainfall amounted to ·96 against an average of 4·15 for preceding five years. From the end of May the rainfall was up to the average until the end of the rainy season, the two wettest months being June and July. In November there was a good fall which kept the rivers well open until late in the season; since the beginning of 1877 there has been more rain than usual, so much so that the burning of jhums was a good deal retarded. There was no meteorological phenomenon deserving of special mention; the fag end of the cyclone of 31st October passed over these hills, but, though a tolerably severe gale, it was not hard enough to do very severe damage.

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874	1875.	1876.	1877.
January ...	...	0·12	0·47	1·20	1·84	0·11	1·55
February ...	1·00	0·44	1·28	2·85	0·74	0·58	0·98
March ...	0·50	1·52	1·76	2·68	2·31	2·39	3·26
April ...	5·29	2·74	5·79	2·71	4·17	0·96	
May ...	7·52	1·53	2·97	5·62	4·22	6·86	
June ..	8 67	9·93	7·65	6·82	15·62	11·55	
July ...	8·32	10·35	12·41	7·18	6·59	13·90	
August ...	13·18	7·85	6·00	10·26	12·47	7·90	
September ...	7·10	4·95	3·33	4·75	7 12	5·88	
October ...	6·26	7·00	2 21	8 53	3·46	2·25	
November ...	0·46	0·10	...	...	...	1·28	
December ...	0·27	...	0·33	...	...	0·16	
Total ...	58·52	46·54	44·20	52·54	58·54	53·91	

14. The outturn of the crops both in the hills and plains portions of the district has been very good and beyond the average. The dry weather in April and May kept back sowings in the hills, but once the crops were sown, they throve well. The rice crop in the Kutcha Naga and Kookie country was a very fine one. In the protected villages around Samaguting it was the same, while at Borpathar such a good harvest had never been known. Towards Mohongdijua the gale of 31st October did some damage to the rice fields, but not enough to spoil the harvest. At Samaguting and the other revenue-paying villages the area under cultivation steadily increases, as it would do all over the hills were it not for the fighting and raiding which goes on. Some of the Samaguting people must have had at least 100 maunds each of rice in store at the end of the harvest. The cotton crop was a good one. There was one crop though which was a total failure, that of tea-seed. The Nagas say very little seed formed on the trees, for they are trees in these hills and not shrubs as is generally supposed, and then what did form was attacked by insects and destroyed before ripening.

15. *Public health.*—The general health of the district has been much as usual. Amongst the revenue-paying villages there has been no unusual amount of sickness, nor has there been any in the regular Angami country, but on the north of the Zubzar small-pox has made considerable ravages. When going to Wokha in December we found the disease at Themokadima, from which place it spread to Themokadzama,

Tophima, and Keruma, in which villages many people have died. The Nagas in that part of the country do not seem so much afraid of small-pox as those further south, so do not abandon their villages when there is an attack. At Samaguting there had been no small-pox for many years, but the people have always been very much afraid of it, and the two Gaonbooras have always said that one case would be the signal for a general flight; when a man did get small-pox they were as good as their word. The Kookie attacked had been kept by his friends in the scouts, lines until the disease was well developed, consequently there were great fears of infection spreading, and immediate steps had to be taken to prevent it, including the destruction of the lines. Had the man's illness been reported at once he could have been sent to an isolated place and the thing kept quiet, as it was the Nagas knew of it at once. The two old Chiefs paid hurried visits to announce that they were all off, leaving their property to our care, and only asking for a bottle of rum to be taken as medicine if they got ill in the jungle. Attempts to reason with them were not of the slightest use, and away they all went. The disease was treated as a personal enemy, and the village abandoned as would have been done before the coming of an invader too powerful to resist. The men were all fully armed, the women and children were surrounded, and then all started fair at best pace; they kept away a month, and then returned with the same precautions as when leaving, approaching very cautiously with shields well to the front, and peeping round every corner before a further advance, until gradually the whole village was occupied. When they fairly satisfied themselves that no one but the Kookie had been ill, they were rather ashamed of running away; but it was not until some time after when they saw him going about, very little the worse in appearance, that the idea that he had been burnt alive was abandoned. Before, nothing would persuade them this had not been done, it being looked upon as merely a wise precautionary measure for which we deserved credit.

16. Most fortunately the disease never spread beyond the first man seized; he and another scout it was ascertained had spent a night in Themokidima against orders and caught infection there, but for some time there was much anxiety which was increased by fear of the Native Doctor who, during Dr. Cooper's absence, was in medical charge; he seemed perfectly ignorant or careless of the danger of infection. Finding him going straight from the small-pox patient to the other sick, I spoke to him about the danger, when he cheerfully replied that there was none, as he had had the disease. A watch had always to be kept on him by Mr. Needham, to whose care and prudence it was mainly owing that no harm was done. When the Native Doctor came and told Mr. Needham that the patient was fit to be let out of the isolated hut in which he had been treated, that gentleman replied that as Dr. Cooper would be in the station in two or three days, he would keep the man till his arrival. When Mr. Cooper came he informed me that the patient was at the very worst stage, so far as danger of infection was concerned. When Mr. Cooper was going on leave I applied for the services of a good Native Doctor, and was informed by the medical authorities that they had none better than the one already at Samaguting; if this is correct, it says very little for the others.

17. Most of the sickness in the district arose from fevers and bowel-complaints. Samaguting was, as usual, unhealthy, and indeed it cannot be otherwise with its impure and deficient water supply, want of vegetables, and sudden changes of temperature, besides hanging just over malarious terai.

18. The health of the Police force was worse than it has been for some years; there were 279 admissions to hospital, compared with 200 in 1875-76. There was however fortunately only one death. The sickly time is from June to October, during this period there was much sickness amongst private servants and other natives residing in Samaguting. A report in original from Mr. Cooper is submitted.

19. *Material condition of the people.*—In the whole of the district, both hill and plain country, the material condition of the people is satisfactory, more so than usual even, the late harvest having been such a good one. Considering what the wants of the people are, they have ample means for satisfying them. The Samaguting Nagas must have a great deal of money amongst them, for in addition to what they make by selling different things to the people employed here, when any one wants to earn a rupee, he has only got to go down to Dimapur and bring up a load for the shopkeepers. A good deal of money finds its way into the Kutcha Naga country too, for though numbers take away salt in exchange for the rice they bring in, there is always a certain amount of cash taken away too.

20. *Emigration and immigration.*—There has been nothing in the way of emigration from or immigration to the country about Samaguting, nor in the Naga country, but undoubtedtly there is a movement towards the northwest on the part of the Kookies in Manipur which is bringing more of them within the Naga Hills jurisdiction. This movement arises from the quest of better jhums. On the western boundary of the district between the Doyang and Rengma Hills there has been a movement towards the east on the part of Mikirs and Cacharis to take up country abandoned in former days through fear of the Angamis who raided as far as Lonkah in Nowgong.

21. *Prices of food and labour.*—At the commencement of the year under report there was great scarcity of food, so much so that it was a question whether we should not be driven out of the place for a time. The Dhansiri having fallen so low that no boats could come from Golaghat, there was no means of importing in any quantity from that side, while, owing to a misunderstanding with the Police earlier in the season, no Kutcha Nagas would come in. At one time there was not more than 24 hours' supply in the place. By using all means possible to procure supplies, the difficulty was tided over. The Kutcha Nagas were induced to come in by having their rice weighed and paid for before me in person. When once the river had risen enough to permit of boats coming up, the Assistant Commissioner at Golaghat, Captain Peet, was kind enough to give assistance in forwarding rice, and afterwards there was no more trouble. The two Marwari traders at Dimapur had got up a good supply at the end of the rains, and the Nagas having had good crops, everything seemed safe for the coming dry season, when unfor-

tunately one of the Marwari's godowns was burnt down and all the grain in it destroyed; there was every reason to suppose this the work of an incendiary, but no clue has been forthcoming to bring it home to any one. As Naga rice began to come in freely, there was no hitch until the small-pox panic took place, then all supplies from the Nagas ceased, and the store of imported rice was consumed. It seemed as if we would be in a worse plight than ever, but fortunately the river was high enough to allow small boats to come up, and after my visit to the Kutcha Naga villages their people began to come in freely again, and are doing so now. The late unusually fine harvest has left the Kutcha Nagas, with a large amount of surplus rice. Prices ranged from Rupees 3-4 (for Naga rice in November) to Rupees 6 a maund for common rice at Samaguting, the average price being about Rupees 5. When it does not rise above that, the men employed at the station are tolerably contented. Out in the hills the usual price of rice is an anna a seer (Rupees 2-8 per maund); this has become a sort of "dustoor," but the working party on the Wokha road when amongst the Sema and Lhota Nagas were getting a seer and a half, and sometimes a seer and three quarters for a rupee. Other articles of food besides rice are, when procurable, very dear.

22. The supply of labour is as limited, and the prices as high as ever. During the year a few men have come up seeking for service, but have almost invariably turned out to be runaway coolies from tea gardens, for whose apprehension warrants have in due time arrived. A few Nagas come in from time to time, but as a rule they very soon tire of regular work, and return to their homes. Steady work in fact does not at all suit the Angami, and that has led to the failure of the attempt made to teach them artisan's work by means of the industrial school. Out in the hills labour is always procurable for road work at the rate of three days' work for a rupee, but this work the Angami will scamp, if he can, and he never sticks to it long. Further to the north however towards Wokha the people are better and more steady workers; the man in charge of the road in that direction reports very well of them; when work was stopped thirty men had engaged themselves to work on monthly wages as long as their services were required. No doubt too these men would have been perfectly willing to give four days' work for a rupee had they not found others giving only three. The supply of indigenous labour looks promising when the head-quarters move over to Wokha.

23. The Beldar corps was at a very low ebb during the year; the men recruited at Darjeeling to bring it up to its full strength all went of from Golaghat early in April. As great cost had been incurred in getting these men, I did not wish to spend more, so carried on with the men left of the old Bildar establishment the best way we could. This have now dwindled down to 22, and as most of them wish to go, it will be absolutely necessary now to take steps for procuring fresh men. There is always a good deal of work to be done at Samaguting during the rainy season, clearing away jungles, landslips, &c.; then in the dry season there is work for more men than we can get. The repairs to the buildings at Samaguting were done by Mikhirs from the Jamuna valley, but there is no denying the fact that these men do not like to come to Samaguting, and it would be a great point gained to be able to do with-

out them; as it is, the work must be done. Again, it is essential that a sufficient number of men to furnish carriage for any party going into the hills should always be on the spot. Naga carriers cannot be depended on even when procurable, for there is the certainty of their throwing away their loads and running away should any fighting begin on the line of march.

24. *Manufactures and trades.*—So far as manufactures are concerned, things remain just as they were, and are confined to the weaving of coarse cloth from cotton or nettle fibre, and making of dhaos, hoes, and spearheads from iron imported from Assam or Manipur. There is also some manufacture of coarse pottery. Salt is still made from the salt-springs in the valley of the Zillo, but not to any great extent, the use of home made salt having fallen off before the imported article. The systems of manufacture pursued by the Nagas have before been fully reported on.

25. Trade seems to continue about stationary, but then it was almost suspended for a time during the small-pox panic, and this must be taken into account in looking at the operations of the year. During 1876-77 the number of Nagas who took passes to go down to the plains was 1,935 against 1,904 in previous year. The greater number of these men went to buy salt, and for trading purposes they took with them Rupees 7,110 in cash. The most of these people came from Konoma, Mozema, Jotsoma, and Kohima; of all the villages in these hills Konoma carries on the largest trade; they import most of the cloths from Manipur, and the traffic in ponies is nearly all in their hands. This year 117 ponies were brought through Samaguting for sale, and to my personal knowledge a few more were taken across towards Nowgong without coming here. The ponies recently brought over have been of a better class than those ordinarily brought before. For one thing, the Nagas are getting more knowing in horse flesh than they were, and not so easily imposed on, especially in the age of their purchases. They used to buy quite indiscriminately colts too young for work, or beasts far beyond all mark of mouth; now they begin to know better, still though cheapness is the thing most looked to, a Bengalie trader who crossed the hill has sent back a few ponies of a better stamp than the Naga purchases. The route across the hills to Manipur by Jotsoma and Mao is gradually being more and more used, twice Bengalis have gone over, and recently a party of Shans with laquered boxes and bamboo articles for sale arrived here. Earlier in the season another party of Shans crossed from Samaguting to their homes in Burmah. If a path was opened out between Samaguting and Manipur, I feel convinced that before long it would be freely used as a trade route between Manipur and Assam. Relations with the Nagas inhabiting the country through which this path would run have improved greatly of late years, and no one recently using this route has been molested in any way.

26. Fewer cloths were carried down for sale this season than usual—243 men went down with clothes against 382 last year. The greater number of people going down took cash to pay for salt, beads, &c. Salt is still the great article of commerce. The traders at Samaguting and Dimapur sold 2,722 maunds worth Rupees 27,220, the selling price

being Rupees 10 per maund; a considerable quantity was also brought up from Golaghat by Nagas who took the longer journey to secure cheaper prices. Most of beads imported came from Golaghat, the traders here putting on very heavy prices to their own detriment. The sales of rice by traders amounted to 3,330 maunds, valued at Rupees 14,000; of this rice about 2,000 maunds was purchased from the Kutcha Nagas and Kookies and the remainder imported from Golaghat. The sales of cloth amounted in value to Rupees 5,000, and of brass utensils and wire to Rupees 1,800. From Nagas the traders purchased Rupees 3,200 worth of beeswax and Rupees 1,174 worth of ivory. There is a considerable export of cotton from the Mikhirs and Kachari country between the Langting and Rengma Hills, but I have not so far obtained any trustworthy stastistics concerning it. This trade is in the hands of Bengali traders who have settled at Mohongdijua, Bhokulaghaut, and other places on the Jamuna river. There was an export of castor-oil seed also from this part of the country, but lately there has been no demand for it. The seed which was on the plants at the time of my visit far exceed in quality any I had before seen.

27. *State of public feeling.*—Taking the district altogether, things have gone on in a satisfactory way, and everything tends to show that the general feeling towards our rule is good, the exception being in a few Angami villages, to which special allusion will be made hereafter. Amongst the quiet tribes inhabiting the low country and Rengma Hills everything has been going smoothly. There has been some slight dissatisfaction on the labour question, but every care has been taken not to call out more men for work, nor to keep them away from home longer than was absolutely necessary. The Kookies who had furnished a number of porters for all the expeditions of late years were very sulky about it. In 1875-76 it was with a good deal of difficulty they were got in, and the Houssahs began to talk of leaving these hills altogether. I promised them that if nothing unforeseen occurred, there would be nothing asked from them in 1876-77, and none of them were called in; this put them in good humour again; they were willing to come and carry baggage now and again, but not regularly every year.

28. The Angamis have been behaving well so far as this district is concerned, for during the year under report they have not committed any serious offence towards people employed by us or under our protection. Excepting the misconduct of some of the Kohima people mentioned in paragraph 3, and the attack on Gomaigojoo in North Cachar, there has been no overt act requiring to be taken notice of. Amongst themselves they have been fighting away and killing each other's women and children as usual, for it is on them the brunt falls, and I have never heard of such a thing as a fair stand-up fight. Though even in this respect there is an improvement, on more than one occasion affairs which would formerly have led to a fight, have been peacefully settled. The more the country is opened up and the people take to trade and money-making, the less do they like fighting. Longer residence has only tended to confirm the opinion expressed in my last year's report, that the great bulk of the men would like to live at peace, but there is a rowdy minority with nothing to lose who can begin a disturbance into which all the community

will be brought. Everything considered, the wonder is that things go on so quietly as they do. Fortunately the Angamis unlike most Asiatics are not given to bickering, but avoid it, no doubt from dearly bought experience. Often a man will say "so and so is my enemy, and I do not wish to see him; we meet sometimes, but pass without noticing each other." Or, when some one has got killed, it will be—"Oh! he was a fool; he knew so and so were his enemies, and must needs put himself in their way and begin to quarrel; had he not done so, they would have taken no notice of him." Generally it is some one who has primed himself well with liquor who begins mischief.

29. Every year the circle extends in which our people can move about with feeling of comparative safety. As the Nagas see our people come and go without injuring any one, and as they receive good treatment when brought in contact with our officers, so the good feeling increases, and this is shown in many ways. I believe that any European officer could go without escort to nearly every one of the villages much brought into contact with us, and that, so far as the general community is concerned, with perfect safety, but all the while he might come across some evilly-minded or half-drunk warrior who might take the occasion as one for earning immortal fame by killing a saheb, and so use his spear or dhao with fatal effect. When at Wokha two scouts joined the camp who had come alone and unarmed across the hills from Samaguting. Even in the more remote villages the good feeling continues to spread, and as much encouragement is given to it as possible. Sometimes when visiting one of these villages a young fellow would join the camp and say he would like to accompany it and see the world; this he would be permitted to do, and, after having become friendly with the people in camp, would have a fine time of it, eventually returning home with his mind enlarged and a stock of beads, or other desirable articles which he had picked up cheap, and cloth sufficient to let him make quite a sensation in the village—for they all have a sharp eye to business. No doubt too the knowledge of the fate of every village which made an unprovoked attack has helped much to ensure a good reception.

30. Where there is at present ill-feeling against us, is, I believe, at Mozema, Konoma, and to some extent at Jotsoma. In the valley in which Mozema and Konoma lie, land suitable for rice cultivation is scarce and dear; in fact, there is not enough of it to support an increasing population. When a young fellow grows up and has to start in life for himself, he finds that to get a field yielding sufficient to keep him in food, he must pay a large sum, from Rupees 250 perhaps down to Rupees 80, according to proximity to the village, this probably he cannot do then, and he has to live as best he can until he can raise the necessary money by trading or plunder. This state of affairs causes there to be a number of young fellows always on the look out for some means of raising the wind. A certain amount do trade and earn money that way at Konoma especially, but others go prowling about the Kutcha Naga country or small Angami villages living at free quarters, and levying black-mail, refusal of either being followed by attack. Then they are always on the look out for opportunities where loot is to be got, either by taking part in the raidings of other villages, or forcing quarrels on those they consider weaker than

themselves. In every murderous attack it is sure to be found that Mozema or Konoma, or both have been at the head of it. Men now no longer young have grown up in a life of turbulence, and are always ready to take the lead, and give the benefit of their experience in any nefarious undertaking. The same remarks apply to Jotsoma, though not to the same extent. Some time ago Mozema and Konoma were at war with each other, and in each there were internal feuds, but these have all been patched up, and thus a great check on them has been removed. They have generally been so successful in their undertakings and have such confidence in their strength on account of the number of muskets they possess, that their audacity becomes yearly greater, particularly now they know that the Manipuries (whom they really fear, though the pretend not to do so) are held back by us. Exaggerated ideas of the strength of the two villages have got about in the hills too, and I have more than once been seriously asked whether I really consider myself able to cope with Mozema or Konoma. The real strength of the two in men is not greater than that of several other villages in the hills. Konoma contains 545 houses and Mozema 266, but the fire-arms they possess is what the others fear; of course the numbers of these are greatly exaggerated; so far as I can ascertain there are about 60 serviceable muskets in Konoma and 30 in Mozema. How they obtain ammunition I cannot find out, though having repeatedly tried to do so. The greater portion of it, if not all, is obtained from somewhere. Some time ago they were hard pushed for ammunition, but a fresh supply seems since to have come in. The Konoma men are called, and I believe truly, the best fighters amongst the Angamis; the Mozema men, though not such good warriors, have a great reputation for cunning, and justly too, but if it was not for their fire-arms they would be much more chary of going to war.

31. For three years now there then has been an increasing desire on the part of the Kutcha Nagas and of the smaller Angami villages to come under our protection, and this has no doubt irritated the Mozema and Konoma people, who know that as each village comes in, there is so much less black-mail and plunder to come their way. There is consequently a feeling of ill-will towards us not felt by any of the other villages. They have been using all their endeavours to prevent the Kutcha and other Nagas from claiming protection, and this has been the case especially with Mozema. I will do Konoma the justice to say however that in one case at least they did not attempt to prevent a village from coming in. In January last the small Angami village of Thesama was wantonly attacked and plundered by a party from Mozema, who also killed five people. The Thesama men went to Konoma for aid, and were told that the best thing they could do would be to give up the idea of revenge and go to Samaguting and offer to pay revenue, if they wished for protection and peace, as they were too weak to think of carrying on a feud with Mozema. At the same time the Konoma men exerted themselves to make Mozema return the cattle they had stolen.

32. During the year, as the Chief Commissioner is aware, there have been several complaints from the Manipur Durbar about raids by Mozema and Konoma on villages lying in Manipur territory, and it

has been ascertained that the complaints made were well founded, except that one of the villages raided on was not in Manipur. The Mozema and Konoma people know perfectly well that they make these raids in defiance of us. When the boundary line was laid down, its situation was carefully explained by Captain Butler, who told the people that they must on no account raid across it, that if people from the Manipur side committed aggressions on them, the aggressors would on complaint be punished by the Manipur Durbar, while, if the Angamis committed aggressions on Manipur, the British Government would punish them; this has been repeated to them over and over without the slightest effect, while, on the other hand, there has been no aggression from the Manipur side.

33. The last aggression on the part of Mozema was the attack on Gomaigojoo; it was not according to Naga idea a wanton outrage, because the Mozema people had an old blood feud against the Gomaigojoo people, who up to this time balked them of revenge by leaving their own village and keeping out of the way. Whenever the Mozema men who had lost relations found out their old enemies had come within their reach again, they took steps to attack them, though perfectly aware they would by so doing invade British territory. The raiding party being small in number, and belonging only to one clan of the village, while the other two clans were profuse in their assertions of loyalty and intentions to assist in getting the raiders given up, I was sanguine that this could be effected, as one clan alone would in all probability not make an open resistance. But on going to Mozema I saw enough to convince me that whatever might be said the recusant clan was secretly backed up both in their village and at Konoma, and that a forcible seizure would have been resisted, and an attempt made to play over again the game of Bhog Chand's time. This would have certainly cost the Mozema men and their allies dear; but having then the knowledge that after the rainy season sufficient force would be at my disposal to do whatever might be required in an efficient manner and to guard all points, I refrained from any attempt or threat of immediate use of force, though at the same time carefully warning all parties of the consequences of their misconduct. My deliberate opinion is that until Mozema and Konoma are properly brought to their senses, and shown how insignificant they really are, things will not go smoothly, but that when once this is done there will be peace. It can, I believe, best be accomplished by having on the spot force enough to make the idea of open resistance hopeless. This is a point on which the opinions held by the late Captain Butler were identical with those formed by me. In Konoma and Mozema both there are people who are well disposed in every way, but in these two villages, the "rowdy" element prevails more than in any others brought in contact with us. There is another way too in which mischief is being done, that is by undoing the good arising from our road-making. When Mr. Needham was bringing in the working party from near Wokha some of Themma-kat-Sama people told him they had received a threatening message from Mozema, telling them that now there was a road open to their village, they must give ten head of cattle if they did not wish to be attacked. This was totally denied by Mozema, but I have no

doubt some such message was sent. The Themma-kat-Sama people had made no objection whatever to the road being taken past their village and were only prevented from working on it by their being small-pox amongst them. But after receipt of a message like the one mentioned, they would be likely to form anything but favorable views of the benefits to be derived from having their country opened up. In doing so we certainly incur a responsibility towards those villages which are thereby made open to attack.

34. During the year under report six villages came in with offers to pay revenue and come under our protection. Two, Midzuma and Thesima, are Angami villages. The remaining four were Kutcha Naga villages; in the case of two others of this tribe former offers to pay revenue were taken up; in one case, that of Jalukema, the revenue was not taken, as the offer made was not a *bonâ fide* one, the other village Phuima was brought on the rent-roll. There are now 14 Naga villages under direct British protection, and this number will steadily increase. It is the general opinion that all the Kutcha Naga villages would be glad to come in and pay revenue if it was not for Mozema and Konoma keeping them back.

35. Since the survey expedition returned from the hill in April 1876, there has been no direct communication with the tribes living to the east of Wokha, but during the past year Mr. Clarke, of the American Mission, has been living at Dekha Haimong village, and is well satisfied with the progress he has been making amongst the Nagas there. The Nagas of the neighbouring villages have not attempted to interfere with him or show any displeasure at his continued residence in the hills. The Nagas of Tablong have asked one of Mr. Clarke's Assamese Christian teachers to come and take up his quarters amongst them and the man is going to do so. Mr. Clarke informs me that from all he can see and learn, he believes the Nagas amongst whom he is living would be glad to come under any settled authority established in the hills and to give up fighting. No doubt such is really the case.

36. *General state of Police, Crime and Civil Justice.*—As has been before pointed out, the Police here are entirely employed on military duties, there being little or no real Police work for them to do. The force continues at its old strength,* but sanction for an increase is anxiously looked for. When Samaguting was first occupied and the intention was to sit still, then the present number of men was sufficient, but we have steadily been moving on since then. All the protected villages rely on us for safety, and road-making has opened out the hills to an extent not thought of in former days. Now the duty required falls very heavily on the men, and is one of the causes of unpopularity of the service which I regret to say still exists. There are vacancies caused by casualties, and for some time now no recruits have been forthcoming; men sufficient to fill up ordinary vacancies used to come seeking employment, but for some reason the supply has fallen off. When I came here a year ago, some thirty men had applied for their discharge, except a few whom it was not thought desirable to keep, they were persuaded to try another year's

* Inspectors ...	...	2
Sub-Inspectors	...	3
Head Constables	...	8
Constables ...	...	150
	Total	163

service, but since coming in from camp twenty men have again claimed their discharge and must be allowed to go. What some of these men say has much truth in it, *viz.*, that if they leave, while still in the prime of life, they can settle in their own villages with their families and get up cultivation and a comfortable homestead against their old age. Whereas if they stay on till health fails or they are not fit for active service in the hills, then there is no time for them to make a provision for themselves, while they can scarcely hope to put in service enough to secure any pension under the present rules, which they contrast with those in force for the Native Army. Considering the nature of the service in these hills, I believe that it would be really good policy to allow pension rules more liberal than those now in force. Hard hill work and exposure makes men aged prematurely, while a man at all decrepit is unfit for the duty he ought to be able to do, but it is hard to turn him away without any provision or recompense for what may have been very good service.

37. The conduct of the men has been good with a few exceptions. Two men were discovered selling their cartridges to Nagas and severely punished for it. Ammunition in small quantities had previously been missing from time to time, but since then this has entirely stopped. There has been no other serious crime committed.

38. As usual there was exceedingly little crime committed in the country under our direct control. Only 39 cases were disposed of during the year, and most of them mere petty ones, the most serious offences brought to trial were two cases of extortion from the Mikirs and a cattle theft at Samaguting. The murder of a constable in January 1876 was brought to light during the year, and the two men alone concerned in it were subsequently apprehended. They made full confession and were transported for life, the murder was committed to secure a gun. It had been said that Angamis would never give up one of their own clan, and this was told me over and over; however one of the men referred to was in the end secured and given up by his own people, who preferred doing that to being kept out of their village. This village was not a very strong one certainly, but what this village did Mozema or Konoma ought to do too, and I will, so far as my power goes, try and insist upon this principle of surrender by the offender's own people. Once that is generally accepted, it ought to make men chary of committing themselves; now they argue, "if the worst comes to the worst our Khell will stick by us, and we will get off in the end." A man's own people can always lay their hands on him if they like, and he knows he is never safe if they turn against him.

39. When Samaguting was abandoned, two or three of the Dobhashas from outside villages who had small-pox before, and did not fear to remain, were told to take up their quarters in the village and see the property left in it was not stolen. When the Samaguting people returned they did not miss a single thing they had left behind, which speaks well for the honesty of Nagas when put in a position of trust. For the care we took of their property the Samaguting people evinced their gratitude by stealing three head of cattle in one day just after their return.

40. The civil work like the criminal was very light, only 27 cases were instituted, and these were almost entirely tradesmen's claims for small sums. The largest amount for which a suit was instituted was Rupees 270.

41. *General state of communications.*—The main road of the district is that leading from Golaghat to Samaguting. The distance between the two places being 67 miles, of which 64 miles is on the plain, and the remainder up-hill. This is a line of road which must always cost a good deal to keep up, as during nearly its whole length it crosses the line of drainage from the Rengma Hills to the Dhansiri, thus causing many bridges to be kept up, and on this, great part of the money sanctioned is spent. During the working season all the bridges were put in good repair, and nearly all made passable by elephants. Between Dimapur and the foot of the hills the road is fit for wheel traffic, and carts have been in constant use by the traders in bringing goods from the boats. From the foot of the hills laden elephants can now come up to the station. I was in hopes that the whole road from Samaguting to the foot of the hills would be open for carts this year as it certainly would have been, but that Mr. Needham, who was in charge of the road, has his time much occupied by other work, as it is, carts can easily go from Dimapur to Borpathor and thence to Golaghat, there are only two or three places presenting any difficulty, indeed, a pair of good strong bullocks could bring a fairly laden cart up now. The places where difficulty still exists are near the Nambur River, where the land is undulating and some more earth-cutting is required. Rupees 4,300 were spent on the repairs on this road.

42. At the end of March 1876 the bridle-path from Samaguting towards Wokha had been cut up to a point beyond the village of Chachama and 45 miles from Samaguting. The path from Golaghat towards Wokha had been cut up to a point near Sanigaon about 30 miles from the starting point. At the beginning of the working season no funds were available for carrying on these works, but when later on, money was forthcoming, the work was commenced. Roopram, the Jemadar of the Beldar Corps, was sent out from Samaguting with 16 Beldars and 30 Mikhir workmen by the end of January, he had finished repairs upon the portion of the path already cut and broken new ground. The first thing was to turn the Nidzakru Hill, which involved carrying the path over five miles of difficult country, after that an easy line was hit on, and the work carried on for 25 miles to a point seven miles from Wokha, when the party was recalled at the end of March; had it not been for the small-pox at Themakidima and Themakatzma, which kept off the labour from these villages, the road would have been completed. The greater part of the work was done by Semkah and Lotah Nagas, who especially latterly came in in larger numbers than could be employed. These Nagas are good workers, and far more persevering at it than Angamis, the only thing is that they require some watching at first for a new comer thinks nothing of energetically attacking a big rock with a new hoe. Roopram has a wonderful knack of managing Nagas and getting work out of them, he is not the least slack with them, but just the reverse. That he did get full work out of his people is proved by

its cost, which for clearing and repairing 45 miles of old path and cutting 25 miles of new was Rupees 1,944-14. For this Roopram deserves great credit. He is, though self-taught, as good a man for hill road making as we could wish to have.

43. The opening up this path has done great good already. What we saw of the state of the country, and the fact that some of the villages to be passed had the reputation of being hostile, made me feel anxious about this party. A guard of 25 men went out with them, and they had strict orders about using the greatest caution. As things turned out however, there was not the slightest hitch. The men of different villages who had been fighting just before worked together on the road, while supplies came in more abundantly than was wanted even. The guard and Roopram's people expressed themselves quite sorry to return, and said they found themselves so comfortable that they would gladly have spent the rains out in the Lotah country.

44. The path runs over fine high open country, giving free communication between Wokha and the Angami country all the year round. Between Wokha and the Zubza, a distance by road of 50 miles, there is not one stream of any size to be crossed.

45. The path from Golaghat to Wokha was under the superintendence of Khusnood Ali, Overseer, who was deputed from Shillong. He reached Golaghat in January, and set to work on the portion of the road between Golaghat and the foot of the hills. A guard of 25 men of 44th S. Light Infantry was procured for his party, but owing to a mistake on the part of the military by which the guard was sent to Samaguting instead of towards Wokha on the 10th February, they were met and turned back by Mr. Needham, then on his way down to join Khusnood's party, and it was not till Mr. Needham's arrival that they fairly began hill work. After clearing and repairing the path cut last year they went on to Sanigaon and then to Doyong. Mr. Needham stayed with this party until the 10th March, and then Khusnood worked on alone until the 8th April, when he finished work at Wokha, having cut 25 miles of new road. The distance altogether from Golaghat to Wokha by bridle-path being 54 miles, of which 20 miles are on the plain and the remainder through the hills; 14 miles from Wokha the Doyong has to be crossed; this river is only fordable in dry weather. Between Golaghat and the Doyong the path never reaches an elevation of more than 2,000 feet; from the Doyong to Wokha there is a rise of 4,000 feet, but easy country has been found. From what I saw and what the Overseer reports, I think it would be possible to establish a ferry here, but if not, a suspension bridge could be thrown across.

46. The earth-cutting on this road was done by Assamese from the Sibsagar District. Nagas came in in plenty for jungle-clearing and removing stores but nothing would induce them to touch a hoe or pick-axe. The Nagas on the line of road between Golaghat and the Doyong were known to be friendly, but after crossing the river there was some anxiety felt, but everything went well. Khusnood Ali deserves much credit for the way he has carried on this work. The cost incurred was Rupees 3,688-4-7, which shows that the labour on this side was very inferior to that with the other party which did the most work.

47. When coming down from Wokha it struck me that the line now taken is not the best one, and that there is a better one further to the east, by which a path would pass under Lakuti and strike the plains near the Kakadanga stream and thence go on to Titabur on the Dhodur-ali; by this line we should be very little further from Jorhat than from Golaghat by the present path and much nearer the Brahmapootra. Mr. Needham and Khusnood Ali, who have had better opportunities than myself of judging, are also of this opinion.

48. The sketch map sent herewith will show how the political bridle-path run. I have also marked on it two lines which might with much advantage be opened up, one from a point on the Wokha and Samaguting road near the Zubzer down to the Manipur boundary at Mao. The distance by bridle-path is estimated to be about 25 miles. Mao is about four marches from Impal, which would bring that place within seven good marches of Wokha and nine from Golaghat. The other from Samaguting south through the Kutcha Naga and Kuki country to the Semkhore guard in north Cachar: the distance is estimated at 45 miles. Semkhor is one march from Asaloo which is four marches from Cachar. With the existing paths and the two proposed new ones the country would be well opened out. When it became known that these roads were open and could be traversed with safety, no doubt they would be taken advantage of by many both in Assam, Cachar and Manipur, who never would think of crossing these hills.

49. *Buildings, &c.*—No new buildings were taken in hand during the year, but in Samaguting a great deal had to be done in the way of repairs, which almost amounted to rebuilding, in the case of two of the barracks, lock-up and some other houses. The Assistant Political Officer and Doctor's bungalows had each a layer of thatch put on the roof and had other repairs. Nothing was undertaken in the way of repairs that could be avoided, but the buildings renewed were in such a bad state that they could not have stood through the monsoon. What with an unusual quantity of white-ants and other destructive insects and high winds, the ordinary kutcha buildings last less time than usual. There was a good deal of trouble in getting a sufficient quantity of thatching grass and bamboos, both having to be fetched from long distances, but the work has been done well under the superintendence of Mr. Needham. The rest-houses at Dimapur and Hurriajan on the Golaghat road were put into good order.

50. The tank on which Samaguting depends for its water supply has been kept in good order throughout the year. Owing to the abundant rainfall it contains more water than usual at present, and the water though far from pure is better than it used to be. During the rains a number of small fish were put into the tank, and this also has had something to do with the improvement.

51. *Schools.*—At the commencement of the year under report there was no school in the district except the one at Borpathar. On 1st August 1876 the services of a fairly well qualified schoolmaster were secured for Samaguting on a salary of Rupees 30 a month, of which Rupees 8 is paid from the Government educational grant, the remainder by private subscriptions, and since then the school has been

kept steadily open with good results. The attendance of children belonging to the Police and others employed here has been steady, and their progress good. A number of the men too take advantage of the opportunity for improving themselves. It has not however so far been found possible to secure the regular attendance of any Naga children. Their parents are the main obstacles as they find the children's services useful at home, and so will not enforce regular attendance. The children, knowing their parents will not interfere, run away when school become irksome, as it very soon does with them.

52. The industrial school after proving a complete failure was closed during the year. The reasons given for want of success by Captain Butler in his report for 1874-75 were doubtless the true ones. Everything, however, tends to show that if the head-quarters are removed to Wokha, we will have to deal with people more likely to take to steady work than the Angami Nagas. Mr. Clarke, the American Missionary now at Dekha Haimong, would, I believe, be very glad to join us at Wokha, where his services would be of great use in starting an organized system of education.

53. The school at Borpathar continues to be tolerably well attended. If funds are available, endeavours will be made to start a school at Bhokulaghaut on the Jamuna for the benefit of the Kachari population thereabout.

54. *Charitable Dispensary.*—The Charitable Dispensary has as usual been the means of doing much good. The numbers attending it both as in-door and out-door patients steadily increase, and people come from villages a long way off for treatment, especially for the ulcerated sores to which so many Nagas are subject. Mr. Cooper deserves much credit for the interest he takes in this institution and the pains he takes over it.

55. *Character of officers.*—Mr. Needham has generally performed the duties entrusted to him in a satisfactory manner, but I regret to say that I have sometimes found him wanting in temper and impatient of control.

56. Mr. Cooper has been painstaking, and always willing to do his best.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1876-77.

Public health.—The general health of the district does not appear to have improved very much, as there was a great deal of sickness present during the year under report, although the mortality was not very great.

The prevailing diseases were fevers and bowel-complaints.

There were 27 deaths as compared with 34 in the previous year: of these 15 were from fever, seven from bowel-complaints and five other diseases.

A great deal of the sickness prevalent here is due to the insalubrity of the climate, bad water, bad food, want of good vegetables and scarcity of animal food.

Dysentery generally terminates fatally among those who are addicted to eating opium largely. The ordinary dose of opium was found to be a two-anna bit or twenty-two grains every morning and evening and oftener during illness. Opium eating sometimes leads to serious injury as instanced in the case of a Mikir, who could not extricate himself, while under its influence, from a heap of fire into which he had fallen head foremost and was nearly burnt to death before he was rescued. He was brought to the Dispensary in a dying state, but after several weeks of constant care and attention he happily recovered, and has since returned to his village.

Small-pox made its appearance in some Naga villages along the eastern boundary of the district; quarantine was immediately established by the Nagas of the outlying villages.

One case of small-pox occurred at Samaguting in January last. A Kuki scout caught the infection during his stay at a Naga village, where small-pox had broken out.

The disease was discovered after the eruptions were fully developed all over the body of the man. He was removed from the Kuki lines and lodged in the compounder's house, while a grass hut was being quickly run up for him, some distance down the hill side in the jungle, to which place he was conveyed, and there strictly watched and carefully attended upon by Fyzul Rhymen, the compounder who was specially deputed for that duty.

I arrived at the station just in time to prevent the man from being set at large, as I was led to believe the Native Doctor contemplated doing while the scales were still falling off. The man however was kept confined to the hut for some days after the scales had all fallen off and the formation of scurf had ceased.

Ample precautions were taken by the Political Officer, Naga Hills, to stamp out the disease. The Kuki lines and the compounder's house were burnt to the ground with all the movable property they contained, and the inmates removed across the Dippupani stream; all the cloths found on them were previously burnt and new ones supplied to them. A few good ones were well boiled in hot water and then given back to them. They were encamped there until all danger was past.

There is more danger of infection spreading from small-pox when the scales are falling off than in the early stage of the eruption, as small particles of the dried matter are carried about in the air which may probably be breathed in by several persons at the one time, which would eventually cause an epidemic. Attention to this point was particularly directed, and great precaution was taken to bring the sweepings of the room in a hole made in the floor of the room occupied by the patient three or four times a day, and thus prevented the possibility of infection being diffused in the surrounding atmosphere. The result has been highly successful, and it is a matter of much congratulation that the disease was stamped out in the way it was—in this the first case that has occurred at Samaguting, and it will, it is to be hoped, be the last.

Although the Nagas of Samaguting deserted their village when they heard that small-pox had broken out on the body of the Kookie scout,

they have however learnt a good lesson from an educational point of view in acquiring further confidence in the European method of treatment of this terrible scourge, inasmuch as they fully expected to hear that every one who were left behind at Samaguting was attacked with the disease, and that many had died from it, but they were greatly astonished to find on their return home to their village that not only had no one died, but that no other person had caught the infection, and were much more surprised to learn that the small-pox case was thoroughly cured and doing well.

The Charitable Dispensary continues to maintain its popularity with the people.

There were a large number of women and children admitted as in-patients of the Dispensary than in the previous year, which is in itself highly gratifying.

The average daily sick was 4·39, which is an increase of 0·53 as compared with 3·86 in the previous year.

Among the out-door patients there were 727 cases treated upon as compared with 699 in the previous year, showing a steady increase and a continued appreciation of the benefits of the institution.

Health of the Police Force.—The general health of the Police Force contrasted with that of the previous year shows that there has been a large amount of sickness among the men, although there was but one death, while there were two recorded in the previous year.

There were 279 admissions into hospital as compared with 200 in the previous year, showing an increase of 79 cases.

The daily average sick was 5·40 as contrasted with 5·33 in the previous year.

The average daily admissions into hospital was 0·76 as compared with 0·54 in the previous year.

The diseases prevalent among them were fevers and bowel-complaints, owing in a great measure to climatical causes as well as coarse food, bad water, a scarcity of animal food, and good vegetables.

Exd.—R. T. B.